

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on November 29, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 22 and 23 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-27 remain pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,141) in view of Mazzola et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,171).

Yamazaki describes a memory translation mechanism that converts an address having a virtual cluster designation into an intermediate address having a physical cluster designation. The physical cluster designation is then used to route the memory request.

Mazzola describes a forwarding engine used within a switch. The forwarding engine accepts a frame, examines a portion of the header contents to determine the destination of the data and generates a unique index for each frame in response to the frame's "color" and destination address. "In order to generate this index, the EARL employs a novel address translation mechanism that essentially maps the frame's destination address and color (DA/color) to a destination port using forwarding tables; as described herein, the tables contain, inter alia, a unique index value assigned to each port in the switch." Therefore, the "address translation" is for determining the port within the switch to use when forwarding the frame. There is no teaching within Mazzola of using a connection descriptor to produce a system node identifier as described and claimed by Applicant.

In addition, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 22 and 23 to underscore the independent nature of the communication engine within the processing element.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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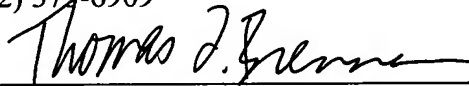
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Date May 30, 2006

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of May, 2006.

Thomas F. Brennan



Name

Signature